

PATENT
0503-1004

IN THE U.S. PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of: Jean-Claude BEAUVOIS et al.

Appl. No.: Group:

Filed: February 7, 2002 Examiner:

For: METHOD AND DEVICE FOR MANUFACTURING A
STRUCTURED PACKING CORRUGATION, AND CORRESPONDING FLUID-TREATMENT
APPARATUS

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

The following preliminary amendments and remarks are respectfully submitted in connection with the above-identified application.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claim 17 without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein.

Please amend the claims as follows:

--4. (amended) Method according to Claim 2, characterized in that the said reduction in height is progressive from the said adjacent rectilinear region.--

--5. (amended) Method according to claim 1, characterized in that the strip (17) is perforated before the folding-pressing operation is carried out.--

--6. (amended) Method according to claim 1, characterized in that the strip (17) is annealed before it undergoes folding-pressing, at least in the regions of this strip which correspond to the non-rectilinear regions (10) of the directrix (8).--

--7. (amended) Method according to claim 1, characterized in that the directrix (8) has a rectilinear main part (9) and at least one curved end part (10) which ends substantially perpendicular to the edges (2, 3) of the corrugation (1).--

--9. (amended) Method according to claim 1, characterized in that the profile (4) is zig-zag shaped with substantially rectilinear sides (5).--

--10. (amended) Method according to claim 1, characterized in that the corrugation (1) is a cross-corrugated packing corrugation.--

--11. (amended) Method according to claim 1, comprising the step of making the sheet-metal strip (17) advance in successive steps between the dies in the open position thereof.--

--12. (amended) Device for manufacturing a structured packing corrugation, comprising two opposed

folding-pressing dies (11, 12), the generatrices of which comprise at least one non-rectilinear part, means to move these dies with a relative movement alternating between coming together and moving apart, and means (17, 18) to make a strip (17) of sheet material advance in successive steps between the dies in the open position thereof.--

--15. (amended) Device according to claim 12, characterized in that it comprises means (B) for annealing the strip (17) at least in the region or regions thereof intended to be folded in a non-rectilinear manner, these annealing means being located upstream of the dies (11, 12).--

REMARKS

Claims 1-16 are pending in the present application.

Claim 17 has been cancelled.

Entry of the above amendments is earnestly solicited.

An early and favorable first action on the merits is earnestly requested.

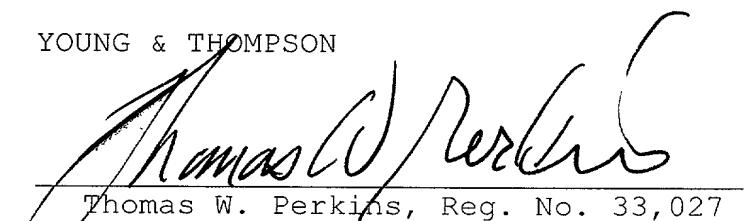
Should there be any matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE."

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

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TWP/ia
Attachments

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADEIN THE CLAIMS:

The claims have been amended as follows:

4. (amended) Method according to Claim 2-~~or~~-3, characterized in that the said reduction in height is progressive from the said adjacent rectilinear region.

5. (amended) Method according to ~~any one of Claims 1 to 4, claim 1,~~ characterized in that the strip (17) is perforated before the folding-pressing operation is carried out.

6. (amended) Method according to ~~any one of Claims 1 to 5, claim 1,~~ characterized in that the strip (17) is annealed before it undergoes folding-pressing, at least in the regions of this strip which correspond to the non-rectilinear regions (10) of the directrix (8).

7. (amended) Method according to ~~any one of Claims 1 to 6, claim 1,~~ characterized in that the directrix (8) has a rectilinear main part (9) and at least one curved end part (10) which ends substantially perpendicular to the edges (2, 3) of the corrugation (1).

9. (amended) Method according to ~~any one of Claims 1 to 8, claim 1,~~ characterized in that the profile (4) is zig-zag shaped with substantially rectilinear sides (5).

10. (amended) Method according to ~~any one of Claims 1 to 9, claim 1,~~ characterized in that the corrugation (1) is a cross-corrugated packing corrugation.

11. (amended) Method according to ~~any one of Claims 1 to 10, claim 1,~~ comprising the step of making the sheet-metal strip (17) advance in successive steps between the dies in the open position thereof.

12. (amended) Device for implementing the method according to any one of Claims 1 to 11, characterized in that it comprises ~~manufacturing~~ a structured packing corrugation, comprising two opposed folding-pressing dies (11, 12), the generatrices of which comprise at least one non-rectilinear part, means to move these dies with a relative movement alternating between coming together and moving apart, and means (17, 18) to make a strip (17) of sheet material advance in successive steps between the dies in the open position thereof.

15. (amended) Device according to ~~any one of Claims 12 to 14, claim 12,~~ characterized in that it comprises means (B) for annealing the strip (17) at least in the region or regions thereof intended to be folded in a non-rectilinear manner, these annealing means being located upstream of the dies (11, 12).